

## **SPECIAL DISASTER RULES FOR ACCEPTING FOOD STAMP/ EBT BENEFITS FOR HOT FOOD PURCHASES**

Effective immediately, retail food stores licensed by the Food and Nutrition Service to accept food stamp benefits in the areas listed below can accept food stamp/EBT benefits from food stamp customers in exchange for *hot foods*.

**These special rules are in effect through  
November 30, 2005 in the following areas:**

- State of Louisiana
- State of Texas

**These special rules are in effect through  
October 31, 2005 in the following areas:**

- State of Florida
- State of Mississippi
- 6 Alabama counties -- BALDWIN, CHOCTAW, CLARKE,  
MOBILE, SUMTER, WASHINGTON

If hot foods are purchased with EBT benefits during the approval period, the purchases are NOT subject to sales tax, as the hot foods are considered food stamp eligible.

We encourage all food stamp authorized retail food stores in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Texas, and the 6 Alabama counties to post a special notice in the store letting food stamp customers know that they can use their food stamp/EBT card to purchase hot foods during this period.

Thank you for helping us in aiding the victims of Hurricane Katrina.